Fiscal Year
2024

Alabama Department of Archives & History

Annual Report

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Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2024

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Collect. Preserve. Share.

Since 1901, the Alabama Department of Archives & History (ADAH) has been the home of Alabama history. The first state-funded historical agency in the United States, the ADAH was established to collect and preserve the historical materials of the people of Alabama, and to use that material in sharing their stories. For nearly 125 years, the ADAH has grown both in its capacity and its approach to accomplish that mission.

Located in Montgomery, the ADAH serves our state as the principal repository for materials ranging from official government records to papers, photographs, and recordings created in the private sector. It also serves as an educational center by offering programs, resources, and training for educators, government officials, students, researchers, and history enthusiasts. The immersive learning environment of the ADAH's Museum of Alabama provides a welcoming and engaging space for visitors of all ages and backgrounds to explore Alabama's story.

ADAH Board of Trustees

The Alabama Legislature created the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) in 1901 and charged its governing Board of Trustees with selecting board members who must be confirmed by the State Senate for each six-year term they serve. The Board of Trustees consists of two members from each congressional district, two at-large members, and the Governor or her designee. Possessing diverse backgrounds and politics, the trustees share an interest in history, a commitment to public service, and a belief in the mission of the ADAH as a place of stewardship and education. The Board meets quarterly.

Delores R. Boyd, Chair
7th Congressional District

Julian D. Butler, Vice Chair
5th Congressional District

J. Schley Rutherford Jr.
1st Congressional District

Elizabeth P. Stevens
1st Congressional District

Horace H. Horn Jr.
2nd Congressional District

Gale Saxon Main
2nd Congressional District

Fred D. Gray
3rd Congressional District

Barbara Patton
3rd Congressional District

Bobby M. Junkins
4th Congressional District

Alyce M. Spruell
4th Congressional District

C. Lynwood Smith
5th Congressional District

Majella Chube Hamilton
6th Congressional District

Garland Cook Smith
6th Congressional District

Vacant
7th Congressional District

Leigh Davis
At-Large

Marcus Reid
At-Large

Gov. Kay Ivey
Ex Officio

> Find biographies of the Trustees at archives.alabama.gov/about/trustees.aspx

From the Director

STEVE MURRAY

The Department of Archives & History is pleased to present this report of our agency's activities on behalf of Alabamians during Fiscal Year 2024. Our staff continued to deliver routine services and to undertake special initiatives with skill and a deep commitment to our responsibilities as stewards of public resources.

We reached major milestones on two important projects made possible with an FY 2023 supplemental appropriation by the Alabama Legislature. Following two years of planning work, the state awarded contracts for the final design and implementation phases of significant updates to the Museum of Alabama located on the second floor of the Archives building. Scheduled for completion in early FY 2026, the improvements will usher in our commemoration of 125 years of service by the ADAH and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation.

Among the changes are an entirely new *Children's Gallery*, our first comprehensive update to that space in nearly forty years. Regular visitors will still find some of their favorite activities in the new gallery, but presented in fresh surroundings designed to facilitate learning by children from age two to ten.

Advisory groups of early childhood education professionals and caregivers pointed us toward creative play spaces that emphasize home, school, civic institutions, and Alabama's extraordinary natural resources. There will be an emphasis on the products produced by Alabama farmers and manufacturers, and an opportunity to gain inspiration from the state's special role in achieving space exploration.

Down the hall, improvements to a 1940 military gallery will introduce casework, lighting, and interactive technology for *Alabama Military Stories*, where rotating exhibits will honor the sacrifices of service members and their families, the vitality of Alabama's connection to the military, and the important contributions of veterans to their communities and state. An advisory group of active-duty and retired personnel, both officers and enlisted, helped shape the gallery's focus on three themes: service, community, and legacy. They also emphasized the importance of recognizing both the achievements made by veterans and the challenges that they face in living with visible and invisible wounds.

In *Alabama Voices*, our centerpiece exhibition that opened in 2014, the most visible updates will be in the section covering 1700 to 1840, where our collaboration with federally recognized tribes is producing new opportunities to engage the rich cultural heritage of Native Americans whose ancestral lands lay in Alabama.

Other updates will strengthen the presentation of the Reconstruction era and the early twentieth century in Alabama, and technology upgrades will allow visitors to take a deeper dive into collections ranging from Civil War armaments to twenty-first century artifacts.

Our second major milestone in FY 2024 was the purchase of the former Liberty Bank building and parking lot on the block just to the south of the Archives building. All collecting institutions face recurring challenges of exhausting available storage space as their holdings grow, and this has certainly been true for the ADAH. After its founding in 1901, the agency moved into new or enlarged spaces in 1907, 1940, 1975, and 2005. Between some of those years, it also placed collections and staff in former residences that sat where our parking lot is today.

Thanks to the Legislature and Governor Ivey, the acquisition of this adjacent property means that the ADAH can begin planning for long-term growth as it continues to steward responsibly the historical records and treasures of the state. We look forward to sharing those plans with you as they take shape.

Just as important as the high-profile initiatives are the ADAH's daily achievements in collecting, preserving, and sharing Alabama's history. Spread across the following pages you will find impressive figures representing a great deal of work by archivists, curators, and administrative staff.

We support every stage of the life cycle of historical materials, from providing guidance to government offices on which records to retain permanently, to advising citizens on how to care for family heirlooms, to performing vital conservation measures for the protection of historic objects, to improving the accessibility of materials through processing and digitization.

Through exhibitions, public talks, workshops, and lesson plans, we encourage the people of our state to enjoy the benefits of shared ownership of these resources and to consider how our understanding of history can inform the decisions we make today.

Although our physical presence is centered in the state's capital city, the footprint of our outreach to K-12 classrooms, local governments, community museums, and civic clubs extends from one end of Alabama to the other. I encourage you to spend time with the maps and audience lists to see how and where we are serving communities near you. Then visit us in person or connect with us online. You will find friendly, informed staff ready to be of assistance to you.

Organization of the ADAH

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DIRECTOR

ARCHIVES DIVISION
- Appraisal & Records Management
- Archival Collections
- Digital Assets
- Reference

MUSEUM DIVISION
- Education
- Exhibits, Publications, & Programs
- Museum Collections
- Registrar

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION
- Communications & Development
- Facilities & Security
- Fiscal & Personnel
- Information Technology

Staffing in FY24:

64 Full-Time Employees

16 Part-Time Employees

15 Student Workers & Interns

39 Volunteers

3,410 Hours Served in FY24

ADAH Volunteer Program

The ADAH's volunteer program has been essential to the daily work of the agency for decades. Every week, our dedicated volunteers greet visitors, lead school tours, help process and care for collections, and provide support to our staff. Several volunteers have been part of the ADAH team for more than three decades. Throughout the year, enrichment field trips are organized to help volunteers and staff better understand different historical events in our state. This year, volunteers toured American Village, the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, the Museum of East Alabama, and the Equal Justice Initiative's Freedom Monument Sculpture Park and Legacy Museum.

> Learn more about volunteering at the ADAH at archives.alabama.gov/support/volunteer.aspx

ADAH Financial Summary FY 2024

	GENERAL FUND	EDUCATION TRUST FUND	ARCHIVES SERVICES FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	FEDERAL GRANTS	TOTAL
REVENUE						
Prior Year Closing Balances		*3,164,065	751,770	13,927		3,929,762
FY24 Appropriations	2,266,865	7,703,423				9,970,288
FY23 Supp'l Appropriation		† 5,000,000				5,000,000
Generated Revenue			352,372	3,050		355,422
TOTAL	$2,266,865	$15,867,488	$1,104,142	$16,977	$0	$19,255,472
EXPENDITURES & ENCUMBRANCES						
Personnel		3,880,037	96,987			3,977,024
Benefits		1,597,798	45,731			1,643,529
In-State Travel		28,630				28,630
Out-of-State Travel		39,500				39,500
Repairs		13,702				13,702
Rentals	2,266,865	212,044	171,211			2,650,120
Utilities		176,457	30,000			206,457
Professional Services		458,377	27,784			486,161
Supplies		370,018	2,767			372,785
Transportation Operations		7,820				7,820
Grants		138,677				138,677
Capital Outlay (property purchase)		1,494,586				1,494,586
Equipment		219,530				219,530
Museum Improvements		5,274,500				5,274,500
TOTAL	$2,266,865	$13,911,676	$374,480	$0	$0	$16,553,021
CLOSING BALANCES	$0	*$1,955,812	$729,662	$16,977	$0	$2,702,451

*Reserved for capital projects, including improvements to museum exhibits, collections acquisitions, and collections storage
† Legislative earmark for improvements to museum exhibits and purchase of real property; expended or under contract in FY24

The Home of Alabama History

624 WASHINGTON AVENUE has been the ADAH's home since 1940, when the building opened to serve as the Archives and Alabama's World War Memorial. Additions to the building in 1974 and 2005 provided more space for records storage, exhibits, and educational and public programming. The most recent expansion included a state-of-the-art research room and paved the way for an overhaul of the Archives' exhibit spaces, resulting in the Smithsonian-quality Museum of Alabama. In FY24, the ADAH purchased a property on an adjacent block to expand its capacity for collections storage and preservation. See *From the Director*, page 3.

> Learn more about the ADAH's building and early history at archives.alabama.gov/about/

FY 2024 By the Numbers

> Collections

135
Government Records Collections Acquired

92
Special Collections Acquired

96
Artifact Collections Acquired, Totaling **468 Objects**

122
Archival Collections Processed, Totaling **Over 335 Cubic Feet**

148
Electronic Records Collections Processed, Totaling **2.63 Gigabytes**

72,717
Cubic Feet in Total Archival Collections

7,513
Gigabytes in Total Electronic Records Holdings

>400K
Artifacts in Total Museum Collections

> Access

1,311
Patrons Visited the EBSCO Research Room

4,545
Email, Mail, & Phone Inquiries Answered

138,076
Users Browsed Digital Collections

269,751
New Digital Files Created

949,311
Digitized Items Now Available Online

829
Hours of WSFA-TV's Historical News Footage Now Online

9,671
Alabama Media Group Photographs Now Online

> Records Management & Museum Services

6
State Agency RDAs Approved

2,167
People Attended **98 Training Sessions** on Records Management

71
Local Organizations Representing **34 Counties** Served by Museum Services Staff

> Museum of Alabama

26,410
People Visited the Museum

16,334
K-12 Visitors Toured on Field Trips

98%
Of Teachers Surveyed Rated Tour Experience as "Excellent"

> K-12 Outreach

1,986
Students Participated in Virtual Field Trips

157
Educators Attended an Alabama History Institute

3,321
K-12 Students Used a Traveling Backpack

> Public Programs

34
Public Programs Presented, Totaling **41 Hours**

1,833
People Attended a Live Public Program

5,307
Viewers of FY24 Program Recordings on YouTube

> Outreach & Promotion

28,390
Facebook Followers

13,200
YouTube Channel Subscribers

538,626
Website Page Views

3,308
X (Twitter) Followers

1,896
Present & Past News Magazine Subscribers

1,501
Instagram Followers

16,983
Email Subscribers

> Staffing

64
Full-Time Staff

3,410
Hours Contributed by **39 Volunteers**

Collect

The ADAH collects records and artifacts that document the stories and experiences of Alabamians throughout history. These materials become part of the ADAH's permanent collections and belong to all the citizens of our state.

THE ADAH COLLECTS:

» **GOVERNMENT RECORDS:** Official records documenting the decisions and actions of government, including the state constitutions, legislation, minutes of boards and commissions, and reports.

» **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** Non-governmental records created by families, individuals, and organizations that describe events in Alabama or document the lives of Alabamians. These include letters, diaries, scrapbooks, photographs, maps, and video and audio recordings.

» **ARTIFACTS:** A wide range of three-dimensional objects documenting Alabama people and places, from quilts and uniforms to portraits and political ephemera.

» **REFERENCE MATERIALS:** Books and other reference materials that focus primarily on Alabama.

» **DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS:** Daily and weekly titles from across the state documenting daily life in communities.

» **STATE AGENCY ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS:** Periodic publications that report state government activities.

Terms To Know:

COLLECTION
A single item or group of items in the permanent care of the ADAH.

ACCESSION
To accept legal ownership of materials for addition to the permanent collections.

1 ARCHIVAL CUBIC FOOT BOX = 12" x 15" x 10"

COLLECTIONS ACCESSIONED IN FY24	COLLECTIONS	VOLUME
Government Records (Paper)	53	263 cubic feet
Government Records (Electronic)	82	412 gigabytes
Special Collections (Paper)	85	80 cubic feet
Special Collections (Electronic)	7	1.83 gigabytes
Artifacts	96	468 objects
TOTAL	**323**	

OTHER MATERIALS ACQUIRED	QUANTITY
Digital Newspapers	2,899 issues
State Agency Publications	671 documents; 2.01 gigabytes
Books and other materials	120 Items

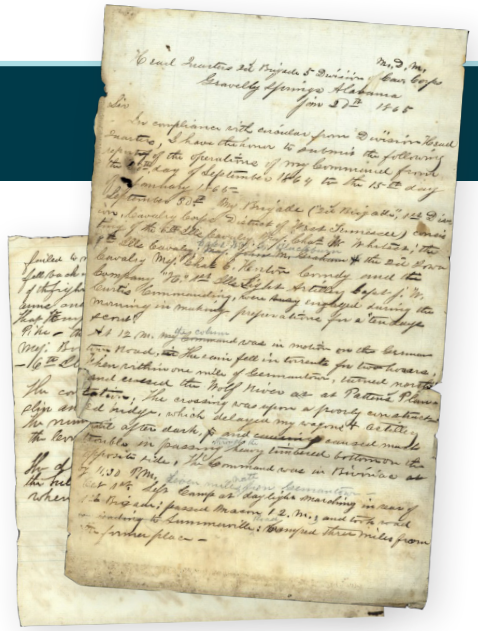
> Interested in Donating Materials to the ADAH?

Contact Registrar Haley Aaron at haley.aaron@archives.alabama.gov or (334) 353-4726.

Did you know?

In addition to print and microfilmed newspaper collections, the ADAH collects digital newspapers through its **Newspaper Preservation Program**. To learn more or to enroll your publication, call (334) 242-4364. The ADAH offers free in-person access to its newspaper collections and to Newspapers.com in the EBSCO Research Room!

Datus Ensign Coon Papers



A recently acquired collection of battlefield reports documents the movement of Union troops through Alabama during the Civil War and sheds new light on the military service of Datus Ensign Coon, one of Alabama's Reconstruction-era legislators. The reports written by Coon describe the daily activities of the 2nd Iowa Cavalry Regiment as they traveled through Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama in 1865. Coon served with the regiment until the end of the Civil War and was promoted to brigadier general in March 1865. After the war, he moved to Alabama and entered politics, serving as a representative to the 1867 constitutional convention and representing Dallas County in the state legislature. Andy Clark, Coon's great-great-great nephew, donated the collection.

Parlor Guitar

This circa 1840s parlor guitar was sold by F. Bromberg & Company, a general store located on 38 Dauphin Street in Mobile. It retains its original label and "coffin style" carrying case. The Bromberg family owned several storefronts in Mobile before moving the company's headquarters to Birmingham in 1890. Today, the family operates two jewelry stores in Birmingham, and Bromberg's is widely recognized as one of the oldest retailers in the nation. The guitar was donated to the ADAH by Carol Jakeman.

James Davis Sweater Vest

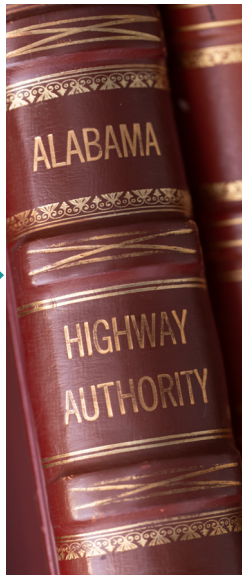
This hand-knitted sweater vest was made for Carbon Hill native James Davis by his sister, Lorene Vaughn, in 1942. Davis, an Army lieutenant, sent Lorene his measurements and a request for a vest with a square collar, and she quickly complied. Lorene used a pattern from "Knit your Bit," a publication developed and distributed by the American Red Cross in WWI and WWII. Davis took the sweater with him when he was deployed to France. He was killed in action near Arracourt, France, in November 1944. The sweater will appear in the ADAH's new *Alabama Military Stories* gallery to illustrate the importance of connections with home for Alabama military service members abroad. Lorene's daughter, Elizabeth Vaughn Arnold, donated the sweater and other items to the ADAH.

Terms To Know:

TEMPORARY AND **PERMANENT RECORDS:** All state and local government agencies create **temporary records** and **permanent records**.

TRANSMITTAL: The official transfer of the custody of permanent records from an agency to the ADAH's permanent collection.

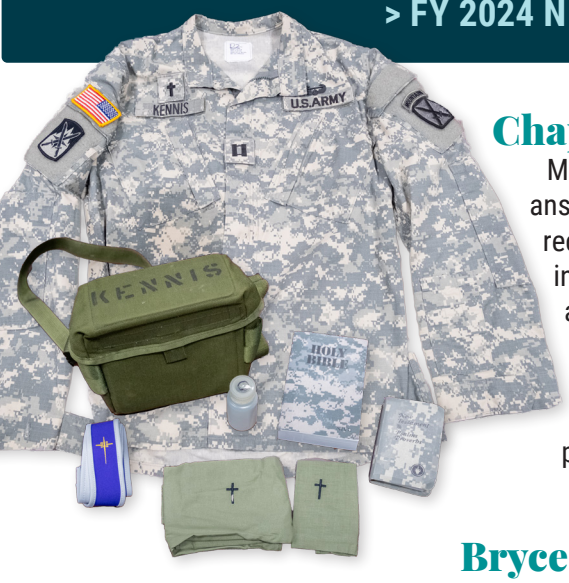
Alabama Department of Finance Transmittal



In FY24, the ADAH received twenty-three volumes of meeting files from public corporations, commissions, and authorities administered by the state Department of Finance in prior decades. Beautifully bound 1960-69 minutes from the Alabama Highway Authority, shown here, are examples of the volumes in this transmittal. These and other meeting files document how and why the State of Alabama funded critical infrastructure developments such as interstate construction and mental healthcare facility renovations during the 1960s. Staff also transmitted born-digital administrative files from the Department of Finance as part of its Annual RDA Implementation Report submission process.

See page 27 to learn more about Records Management at the ADAH in FY24.

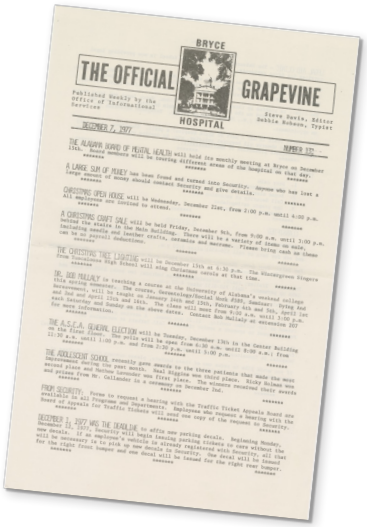
> FY 2024 NEW MUSEUM & ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS



Chaplain Scott Kennis Collection

Members of the Chaplain Corps provide essential care to military service members, answering their call to nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the fallen. A recent donation from Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Scott Kennis of Roanoke will join other items in the new *Alabama Military Stories* gallery to illustrate how chaplains, doctors, nurses, and other "mercy bringers" provide comfort and care for America's military personnel, often with limited supplies and in the most difficult conditions. Lt. Col. Kennis is currently serving as a chaplain at Ft. Novosel. His uniform and chaplain's kit from his service in Iraq are valuable additions to the ADAH's growing capacity to collect, preserve, and share stories related to military service in modern conflicts.

Bryce and Searcy Hospital Collection

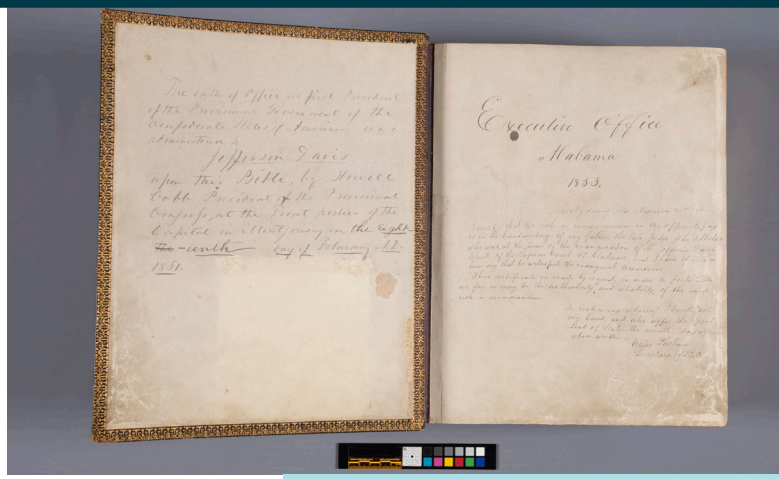

BRYCE HOSPITAL
THE OFFICIAL GRAPEVINE

The Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) recently transferred a collection of artifacts that document the experiences of patients at two of the state's largest mental hospitals, Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa and Searcy Hospital in Mount Vernon. The transmittal includes examples of china and silverware used by patients, a piece of original heart pine flooring from Bryce Hospital, and two electroshock machines used for treatment in the 1920s and the 1990s. In FY24, the ADAH's digital assets archivists completed the digitization of a collection of newsletters (right) published by Bryce Hospital. The ADMH also transferred a collection of permanent files from hospital superintendents that span more than 50 years of Bryce's history, from the 1920s to the 1970s. The subjects of these files range from revenue and appropriations for the facilities and correspondence on the latest medical care, to livestock and agricultural concerns of the farm maintained by the hospital.The ADAH is grateful to the Department of Mental Health and ADMH historian Steve Davis for facilitating this transfer.

Flavin Glover Collection

For forty years, Cullman County native Flavin Glover has shared the joy of quilting with national and international audiences. Glover learned to quilt in traditional patchwork and log cabin quilting styles from her mother, Nonnie Hudson Williams, and a neighbor, Vonda Lee Waldrep. In the 1980s, Glover designed a series of log cabin landscape quilts that introduced a new generation of quilters to the traditional quilting block. Her donation to the ADAH includes 22 quilts and articles of clothing that span Glover's quilting career, along with two string patchwork quilts, one work apron, and one bonnet made by Nonnie Williams. The collection also includes dozens of letters exchanged by her parents, Verlon Aurice Williams and Nonnie Hudson, which document their courtship and life in rural Cullman County in the 1920s. Several quilts from the Glover collection are on display in the ADAH's Milo B. Howard Auditorium through June 2025. Quilt displays change semi-annually in the Howard Auditorium, allowing visitors to enjoy the ADAH's extensive collection on a conservation-friendly rotation.

The ADAH processes and preserves historical materials in its permanent collections to ensure that they will be available for future generations to study and enjoy.



How Does the ADAH Preserve Its Collections?

Archivists and curators use several essential tools to maintain the ADAH's collections and ensure their preservation for future generations.

- » Proper temperature and humidity
- » Proper light levels
- » Acid-free boxes and folders
- » Controlled access to storage areas
- » Fire protection
- » Regular monitoring

> FY24 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Gov. Robert Burns Lindsay Portrait

This unframed portrait of Alabama's 22nd governor was in poor condition with heavy soiling, punctures, and areas of paint loss (left image). Outsourced conservation treatment addressed the damage and prepared it for an appropriate 19th century frame, which also received cleaning and repair.

State Bible

The State Bible (above) was among the first items to be transferred to the ADAH's care at its founding in 1901. This Bible was purchased by the Legislature and has been part of every Alabama governor's inauguration since 1853. Conservators cleaned the cover, repaired the binding, consolidated areas of loss, repaired tears to the pages, and removed and re-housed loose documents and plant specimens. The Bible made its return to the ADAH in a custom box that will ensure its preservation and safe transport for decades to come.

Emera Frances Griffin Portrait

This portrait of Alabama suffragist Emera Frances Griffin was donated to the ADAH in 1926. Fireplace smoke had darkened and soiled the canvas, which also bore crease marks from being stretched too tightly. Missing pieces from the original frame were reconstructed by the conservator using a mold of one intact corner. After cleaning and re-stretching, the portrait is bright, clean, and displayed in the ADAH's second-floor portrait gallery.

Electronic Records Preservation

Born-digital records require a special electronic preservation environment to provide long-term protection against file deterioration. The same system provides public access at **adah.access.preservica.com**.

ELECTRONIC RECORDS: Records created digitally and not digitized from an analog format.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS: Materials originally produced on paper, film, or tape and scanned to provide online access.

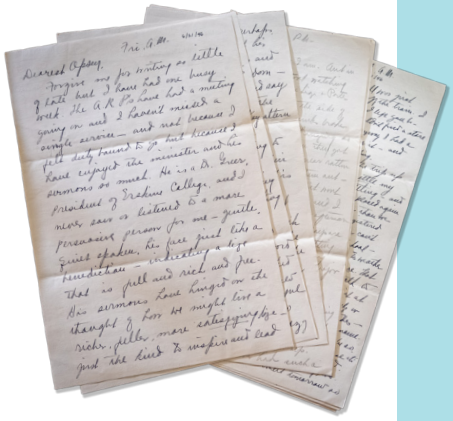
In FY24:

4,542 Electronic Records Users

31,979 Page Views

> FY 2024 NEWLY PROCESSED COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Below are examples of the 122 archival collections that were processed in FY24 and are now available to researchers in the EBSCO Research Room. Some have also been digitized. Visit archives.alabama.gov/research/explore/.



Phrase To Know:

PROCESSING COLLECTIONS: Organizing and cataloging materials held in permanent collections to make them available for researchers.

Liddell Family Papers, 1825-2020

The Liddell family papers highlight the writing career of Viola Goode Liddell and the family into which she married. The collection contains unpublished manuscripts by Liddell, correspondence to her son, Oxford, during World War II, and a scrapbook that documents the publicity and success of *With a Southern Accent* (1948), her first memoir. The collection also documents the relationships between members of the Liddell family and their successful businesses in Wilcox County, Alabama. Other materials include correspondence from Mary Hellen Liddell, grade reports from Alabama Polytechnic Institute for Liddell family members, and genealogical materials for the Goode and Liddell families.

Flowers and Steiner Family Papers, 1859-1956

The Flowers and Steiner family papers offer an intimate look at two generations of Alabamians whose lives were touched by war. The collection contains diaries and letters penned by John Jefferson Flowers and Kate Brooks Flowers, dated 1859-1904, as well as a collection of letters belonging to Bernard and Sarah Flowers Steiner, dated 1918-1919. Most of the World War I correspondence comes from American soldiers writing to the Steiner family. Prior to leaving for the war, these soldiers were stationed for training at Camp Sheridan in Montgomery and cared for by the Steiner family. The most frequent correspondent, Jack Carroll, wrote nine letters to the Steiners, discussing his training and experiences in France. To show his appreciation for their hospitality, he commissioned for his Montgomery hosts a set of Bavarian dessert plates, also included in the collection. Martha Miller, the great-granddaughter of John and Kate Flowers and the granddaughter of Bernard and Sarah Steiner, donated these items to the Archives.

Thomas M. Owen Collection, 1886-1920

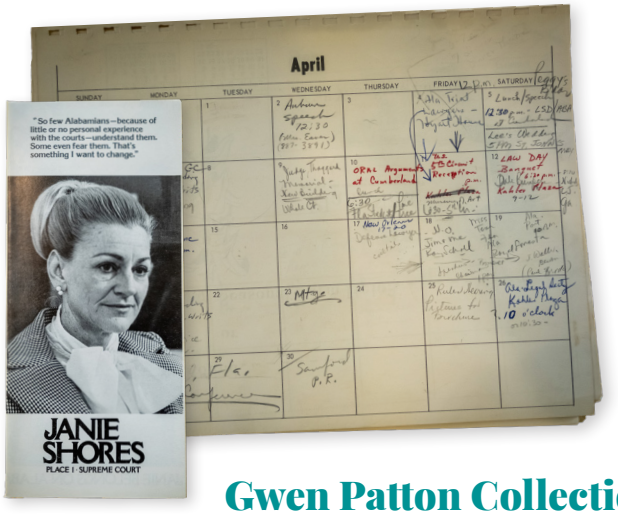
The personal papers of the ADAH's founding director are now available to researchers. The collection documents the lives of Thomas McAdory Owen (1866-1920) and many of his family members. Owen was a lawyer, historian, and founder of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, serving as its first director from 1901 to 1920. A few collection highlights are correspondence documenting personal and professional aspects of Owen's life; records of Owen's involvement in the Alabama Historical Society, Rotary Club of Montgomery, and The Thirteen; and drafts and reference materials for Owen's 4-volume work, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography*. Other notable items include correspondence from Marie Bankhead to Tom Owen during their engagement and early years of marriage, as well as correspondence from Thomas M. Owen Jr. to his parents, mostly documenting his school experiences and military service.

Jessie Mae Smith Papers, ca. 1940s

The Jessie Mae Smith papers highlight the pivotal role of women in industrial production during World War II. After graduating from high school in Danielsville, Georgia, Smith volunteered to train with the United States Army Air Service to learn sheet metal fabrication and aircraft maintenance. Her collection consists of two disbound scrapbooks, photographs, and a publication about Hawaiian plants. The scrapbook pages comprise the bulk of the collection and document Smith's experiences working at Hickham Field in Oahu, Hawaii, as an aircraft technician. After the war, Smith moved to Montgomery, where she enjoyed a 50-year career at Maxwell Air Force Base's Maxwell Air University Library.

John Douglas Brock Papers, 1949-2022

The John Douglas "Doug" Brock papers document Doug Brock's experience working as an Assistant Unit Operator at Widows Creek Fossil Plant, a steam plant operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Brock's artwork constitutes the bulk of this collection and includes loose paintings and several volumes depicting scenes at the plant, sixteen printed volumes of artwork with descriptive text, and artistic scrolls. The collection also contains photographs and photograph albums featuring staff and equipment at Widows Creek, papers that give insight into Brock's daily work there, and printed materials that provide information on the types of machinery in use at the plant.


April
"So few Alabamians—because of little or no personal experience with the courts—understand them. Some even fear them. That's something I want to change."
JANIE SHORES
PLACE I · SUPREME COURT

Janie Shores Administrative Files, 1953-2001

This collection of the administrative files of Alabama's first female Supreme Court Justice consists of subject files; case files; campaign files; files on speeches, events, and conferences; correspondence; and other administrative records. The material documents Justice Janie Shores's work in the legal field and service on the Alabama Supreme Court. The subject files cover legal topics and other areas of interest for Shores, while case files document cases she heard and opinions she crafted. Campaign files cover every election in which Shores ran for Alabama Supreme Court from 1972 to 1992.

Gwen Patton Collection, 1983-2012

This collection consists of a postcard, certificate, newspaper clipping, and publicity materials documenting Gwendolyn Marie Patton's activism in the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama. Notable items include a mailer advertising a theatrical tribute to civil rights activist Sammy L. Younge Jr., a Southern Christian Leadership Conference poster of influential Black Alabamians, and a poster advertising a 1983 event commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the August 28, 1963, March on Washington. The collection also contains materials related to Patton's campaign for state legislative office in 1986 and her U.S. Senate campaign in 1992.

Share

The ADAH provides access to its vast permanent collections in the EBSCO Research Room and online.

RESEARCH AT THE ADAH

The ADAH's EBSCO Research Room is open to all members of the public. Staff provide free assistance to in-person patrons and, for a small fee, will fulfill research requests submitted by phone and email on any Alabama history topic. Free Research Consultations are available to help those beginning large projects to make the most of their time at the Archives.

In FY24:

1,311
Patrons visited the EBSCO Research Room

4,545
Email, Mail, & Phone Inquiries Answered

130
Research Consultations Completed

Notable Reference Topics & Trends in FY24

More than one-third of the year's research consultations were related to genealogical research. Other notable research topics included:

» Agriculture
» The Civil War
» Alabama's Rosenwald Schools
» 1974 Super Tornado Outbreak
» Corrections Training Schools

Permissions Requests & Reproduction Orders

From documentary filmmakers to book publishers and museums, content producers around the world request permission to use materials from the ADAH's permanent collections. Although low-resolution items are free to download for personal or educational use, high-resolution files are available only by submitting an Order Form and Use Agreement.

282 Permissions Requests Fulfilled

1,136 Collection Items Included in Fulfilled Orders or Permissions Requests

Information to Know:

> **The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.** Appointments are not required, but Research Consultations in advance of a visit are encouraged.

> **Submit a Research Request or schedule a Research Consultation** at archives.alabama.gov/research/

The ADAH makes nearly a million digitized records and photographs, along with hundreds of hours of audiovisual materials, available to anyone with an Internet connection.

Explore Our Digital Collections > digital.archives.alabama.gov

949,311 Digitized Items Available Online

269,751 Digitized Files Created in FY24

138,076 Digital Collections Users in FY24

1,195,259 Digital Collections Page Views in FY24

Significant Ongoing Digitization Projects

> ALABAMA MEDIA GROUP COLLECTION

In 2016, the Alabama Media Group donated more than 3 million photographic negatives taken for the *Birmingham News,* the *Huntsville Times,* and Mobile's *Press-Register,* spanning most of the 20th century. The ADAH's digital assets staff are scanning both the negative sleeves to create a searchable index and the negatives themselves, revealing many images never before seen by the public. In FY24:

13,721 Negative Sleeves Scanned
More than 202,000 sleeves are searchable online. Approximately 75,000 remain to be digitized.

448 Negatives Digitized
9,671 images are online, with more added regularly.

Members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians in ceremonial dress in Poarch, Ala. Taken by Dave Hamby for Mobile's Press-Register, *October 10, 1992.*

> WSFA COLLECTION

In 2021, Montgomery's WSFA-TV donated much of the station's historic news footage. The collection includes more than seven thousand audiovisual items recorded from the 1950s through the early 2000s. In FY24, the ADAH completed digitization of 90 hours of WSFA footage with grant funding from the Alabama Department of Tourism.

90 Hours of Footage Digitized in FY24

11 Terabytes of Storage Consumed

Digitization thus far has prioritized U-matic tapes used to record video from 1976 to 1985. This tape format deteriorates quickly, so digitization is essential for preserving the content as well as providing access. The recordings contain news segments related to state government and politics, civil rights, education, athletics, and other aspects of life and culture. They document a time of great social and political change in the Deep South. All 1,151 U-matic tapes, representing 829 hours of footage, are now available in the ADAH Digital Collections.

Crowdsourced Transcription Projects

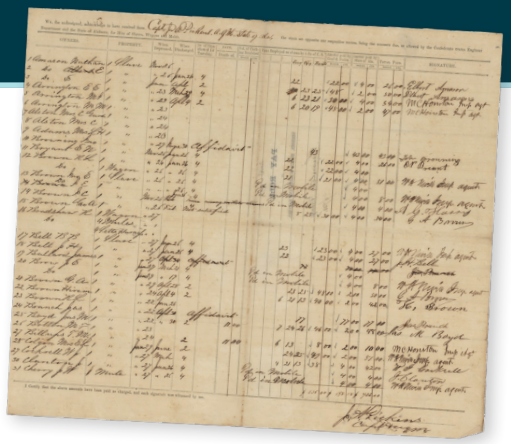
Since 2018, the ADAH has enlisted virtual volunteers to help transcribe its archival collections for online access. Using an open-source software called *FromThePage*, members of the public have helped make more Alabama history accessible.

COLLECTIONS TRANSCRIBED IN FY24:

137 Supreme Court Case Files

These case files created between 1820 and 1877 include interrogatories, exhibits, motions, and other details not included in the Court's published rulings.

Below are examples of collections that were digitized in FY24 and are now available to browse at digital.archives.alabama.gov.



Impressment Vouchers, 1863-1864

In October 1862, Alabama Governor John Gill Shorter signed an act authorizing the impressment of enslaved people and equipment during the Civil War, primarily for the construction and maintenance of fortifications. This series from the Alabama Comptroller of Public Accounts collection includes affidavits for the impressment of enslaved people and supplies used to work on these fortifications. The series, now fully digitized, also contains payroll sheets documenting payments to various individuals for food, tools, and other provisions.

167th Infantry Regiment Photos, ca. 1920s

The ADAH's digital assets archivists digitized several WWI-era panoramic images featuring the 167th U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as the 4th Alabama prior to being federalized. This August 1922 photo features the Headquarters Company of the 167th at Camp McClellan in Anniston. The regiment's U.S. flag will be featured in the ADAH's new *Alabama Military Stories* gallery.

French Gratitude Train Photographs, 1949

A series of 8x10 photographs from the John A. Martin collection document a special post-WWII event: the 1949 presentation of the Alabama boxcar of the French Gratitude Train (or Merci Train) in Montgomery. One of 49 boxcars laden with gifts sent by France to the U.S. to thank Americans for their support during the war, the Alabama car was displayed in front of the Capitol in Montgomery, and it now resides at the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum in Huntsville. The ADAH preserves and shares several gifts from the boxcar in its collections, including a scrapbook made by French children for American schoolchildren, also digitized in FY24.

Photographs of African American Schools, 1968

A 1968 series of photographs from the state institutions files of the Office of the Governor offers a rare glimpse of many African American primary and secondary schools across the state. The images were taken by Alabama Highway Patrol officers in October 1968 after a federal court ordered the integration of faculty and closure of many of these schools. The photographs document the exteriors, classroom and interior spaces, and occasionally the students of 145 Alabama schools. Although some buildings had ongoing use following desegregation, others were decommissioned.

Alabama Fiddler Field Recordings, 1986-87

In 1986 and 1987, Alabama folklorists Jim and Joyce Cauthen made field recordings of contemporary Alabama fiddlers for Side Two of the 1988 LP *Possum Up a Gum Stump: Home, Field, and Commercial Recordings of Alabama Fiddlers*. Side One contained a collection of songs obtained from vintage recordings made between 1924 and 1949. The Cauthens donated to the ADAH the physical tapes of those recordings and corresponding digital files and metadata. Our digital assets archivists have uploaded this digitized material to the Alabama Folklife digital collection, along with tape logs, informal transcriptions of interviews, newspaper articles, and photographs featuring the album's fiddlers, like this image of Jefferson County fiddler Matthew D. "Mat" Hill.

Share

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history through permanent and temporary exhibitions.

8,402 General Visitors

4,723 Alabamians

3,194 Other U.S. States

485 International

18,008 Tour Visitors

16,334 K-12

1,674 Other Group Tours

26,410

Total Museum Visitors in FY24

Museum of Alabama Updates

A major capital project to update and enhance the state history museum's offerings for Alabamians of all ages has been underway since 2022. In FY24, ADAH curators selected stories, artifacts, and images to feature in the new *Children's Gallery*, the new *Alabama Military Stories* exhibit, new interior and exterior improvements, and updated areas of *Alabama Voices*, the Museum's centerpiece exhibit.

ADAH staff are continuing to work with The PRD Group, the Virginia-based exhibit design firm that previously worked with the ADAH to design *Alabama Voices* and other galleries in the Museum of Alabama. PRD's portfolio also includes the Museum of the Bible, the George W. Bush Presidential Library, state history museums in Texas and Virginia, and several Smithsonian exhibits. Work on the project has further involved nationally recognized exhibit fabricators and media producers, leading scholars in the field of Alabama history, advisory groups, and members of the ADAH's professional staff.

New exhibits will open in late 2025, as the ADAH prepares for its 125th anniversary of service to the people of Alabama and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation in 2026.

Gallery spaces began temporarily closing for deinstallation of exhibits in late 2024. Closure schedule:

» **November 30, 2024 – *Alabamians in the Great War***

» **December 31, 2024 – *Hands-On Gallery***
History Lives On: Alabama's Rosenwald Schools

» **May 17, 2025 – *Alabama Voices***

NAGPRA Compliance Update

In FY24, the ADAH continued its work toward achieving compliance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) through ongoing consultations with federally recognized tribes. The department legally repatriated 115 sets of ancestral remains and 4,680 associated funerary objects to culturally affiliated federally recognized tribes. This marks a significant milestone in the ADAH's NAGPRA compliance work.

ADAH staff are also consulting with tribal representatives as work continues toward the ADAH's new *First Peoples of Alabama* gallery.

These artifacts, images, and stories are examples of many that will be featured in the new and updated exhibits.

Alabama Voices: Menawa Clothing Reproduction

Menawa, a chief of Okfuskee, was a key Red Stick leader during the Creek War and a prominent representative of the Creek Nation through the period of Removal. Updates to the *Alabama Voices* gallery will include a full reproduction of the clothing in this portrait of Menawa, made in 1826 as he traveled to Washington, D.C., to negotiate the Treaty of Washington. Seminole artist Jake Tiger is creating the clothing for the exhibit.

Alabama Military Stories: Carr Quilt

This story quilt depicts the naval career of Wigginton native J. L. Carr. The ships in each block are embroidered with dates of missions or significant events of his service in the Pacific theater of World War II. Carr's grandmother and aunt provided the piecing and quilting for the project, and his wife, Ludie, hand-embroidered the dates and other information based on letters he wrote to the family during his service. The quilt, which will be displayed in the *Alabama Military Stories* gallery, is not only a creative documentation of Carr's career but also a visual expression of an Alabama family's care and vigil for their loved one serving overseas.

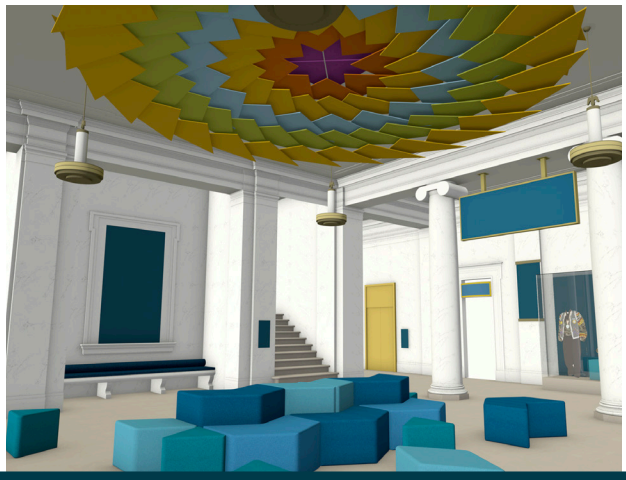
Alabama Military Stories: The Many Hats of George Hall

This hat worn by U.S. Army veteran George Washington Hall illustrates one of the central ideas in the new *Alabama Military Stories* gallery: the experiences of Alabama's military veterans shape their lives, families, communities, and state long after their active duty concludes. While still serving as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, Hall charted a 30-year career in law enforcement in Greene County and was a successful small-business owner, operating Hall's Homemade Syrup in Boligee.

Children's Gallery: Archives Friends

This adorable possum is one of five new Archives friends who will make their home in the *Children's Gallery*. These friends will welcome and guide the Museum's youngest visitors (ages 2 to 10) as they learn about Alabama's history, ecology, industry, and community in the new gallery designed just for them.

2nd Floor Lobby: Pine Burr Quilt Installation



This rendering of the Archives' future second floor lobby features a vibrant ceiling installation inspired by the Pine Burr quilt pattern. Designated the state's official quilt pattern in 1997, the Pine Burr's piecework mirrors the overlapping structure of a pinecone. This colorful installation will help to introduce a recurring theme of the Museum: like the pieces of fabric that make up the pattern, the stories of all Alabamians play a role in developing the multi-layered history of our state.

Share

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history through permanent and temporary exhibitions.

FY 2024 Temporary Exhibits

History Lives On: Documenting Alabama's Rosenwald Schools

In the early twentieth century, Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears Roebuck & Co., used his extensive financial resources to help build schools for African American children in the rural South. Inspired by Booker T. Washington's efforts to improve Black education, Rosenwald collaborated with Washington and Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) to pilot a community-matched grant program to fund the construction of six schools in central Alabama. The success of the program, coupled with a high demand for new schools, led Rosenwald to establish the Rosenwald Fund. Between 1913 and 1932, the Fund assisted communities in building more than 5,000 schools in 15 states, 400 of which were in Alabama. Although the schools closed in the years following integration, a spirited grassroots preservation campaign has kept many of them in service as museums, church buildings, and community centers.

In FY24, the ADAH partnered with Auburn University's College of Architecture, Design, and Construction to create an exhibit telling this remarkable story. *History Lives On: Documenting Alabama's Rosenwald Schools* is part of Auburn University's "Realizing Rosenwald" project, which uses digital 3-D scanning to document the construction and layout of some of Alabama's remaining Rosenwald schools. The exhibit highlighted results of this work, including 3-D printed models of five schools, a virtual walkthrough of Montgomery County's Tankersley School, and a large basswood map of Alabama featuring models of the fourteen Rosenwald school buildings known to remain in the state. *History Lives On* opened on October 2, 2023, and closed on December 31, 2024. During its time at the Archives, 9,029 visitors saw the exhibit.

The ADAH marked the exhibit's opening with a panel discussion featuring Gorham Bird (Auburn University), Dorothy Walker (Alabama Historical Commission), and Thomas Boyd (Montgomery County Farmers Service and Welfare Association and Tankersley School graduate). A recurring theme in the conversation was the continuity between the community-based methods used to fund the schools' construction and the modern movement to preserve the remaining buildings. The opening event drew

Continued on page 20...

Temporary Exhibits, cont'd

History Lives On, cont'd

120 attendees, many of whom were alumni of Rosenwald schools or were currently involved in preserving a school. An additional 173 people have viewed the program on the Archives' YouTube page. In February 2024, Bird returned to the ADAH for its *Food for Thought* lunchtime lecture series to present on the work, with 82 in attendance and a cumulative 254 YouTube views.

History Lives On helped bring together numerous organizations and individuals who are working to preserve Rosenwald schools throughout the state. Tuskegee University's Department of Architecture loaned a model of the Armstrong School, a Tuskegee project that predated Rosenwald's involvement in funding schools, for the exhibit. Leighton Training School loaned a letter sweater, marching band shako, and several trophies. Judge Tammy Montgomery, who attended the Mt. Tabor Elementary School, loaned one of her report cards. Autauga County's Mt. Sinai Rosenwald School offered desks, a pulpit, and books. Mt. Sinai, whose alumni are working to repurpose the building as a community center, received state funds through the Alabama Historical Commission for critical repairs. By highlighting the stories of Rosenwald schools in the state, the ADAH helped to remind Alabamians of their relevance and, more broadly, the significance of places all around us.

Alabama and Baseball

In May 2024, the ADAH installed *Alabama and Baseball*, a temporary exhibit in the Ocllo S. Malone Lobby at the Archives. The exhibit celebrated Alabama's ties to America's favorite pastime with items from the ADAH's collections, including baseball cards, photos, autographed balls, a 1940 jersey from a Lawrence County club team (above), a 1914 score book for the Montgomery Baseball Club, and other commemorative items.

Digital Exhibits Launched in FY 2024

» ***Sewn Together: Two Centuries of Alabama Quilts***
» ***Alabama and the American Presidency***

View Digital Exhibits:
archives.alabama.gov/visit/exhibits/online.aspx.

Public Programs

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history through a wide array of in-person and online public programs.

In FY24:

34
Public Programs Presented by the ADAH, totaling **41 hours**

1,833
People Attended a Live Public Program

5,307
Viewers of FY24 Program Recordings on YouTube

PROGRAMS	HOURS	ATTENDANCE	YOUTUBE VIEWS IN FY24
LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SERIES			
Food For Thought Lunchtime Lecture Series	12	742	3,109
Book Talks	3	127	346
History/Now: Conversations on the Past + Present	2	180	290
INSTRUCTIONAL SERIES			
Research Rundown: History & Genealogy How-To Online Series (Eight 30-minute programs)	4	162	1,221
Half-Day Summer Genealogy Workshops (2)	6	33	
Archives/Five Online Programs Highlighting Collections (Two 5-minute programs)	10 mins		341
ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENTS			
Alabama in the Movies Summer Film Festival (3 Film Screenings)	6	92	
Black History Month Saturday Family Event	5	247	
Halloween at the Archives: A Spooktacular Family Event	3	250	

History/Now Series Garners National Recognition

The ADAH's *History/Now: Conversations on the Past + Present* series is a recipient of a national Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The Award of Excellence is part of the AASLH Leadership in History Awards, the organization's most prestigious national recognition for achievement in public history. *History/Now* is a public program series at the ADAH that explores connections between the present and the past. Begun in 2019, the series has explored the contemporary relevance of history on topics such as tribal sovereignty, the 1901 Alabama Constitution, the process of congressional reapportionment, and the legacy of the Scottsboro Trials. The ADAH was the only organization to receive more than one award in 2024 (see page 25). The Awards of Excellence were presented during AASLH's annual conference in Mobile in September 2024. Past programs may be viewed on the Archives' YouTube page.

Share

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history with special events for families and partnerships with community organizations.

Halloween at the Archives

Costumes, activities, treats, and smiles filled the Archives' halls on October 27, 2023, for the ADAH's second annual Halloween at the Archives event. The Archives welcomed 250 visitors during three fun-filled hours, which featured a scavenger hunt and activity stations in the Museum of Alabama, a temporary exhibit, crafts, and special readings of the children's book *Sydney and the Masquerade* by author Kay Whaley and illustrator Kathy Hamrick.

African Americans and the Arts: A Black History Month Event

On Saturday, February 10, 2024, nearly 250 visitors attended the ADAH's second annual Black History Month event. The all-day event featured a museum scavenger hunt, crafts, book readings, and special presentations that shared the stories of Black Alabamians and their contributions to the arts throughout the state's history. An exhibit of items from the ADAH's collections was on display, along with recently digitized historical news footage from the ADAH's WSFA collection. Local vendors Jozettie's Cupcakes and Can A Brotha Get A Slice were on site throughout the event. Community partners including the Alabama Shakespeare Festival; Freedom Rides Museum; Hiztorical Visions Productions; League of Women Voters of Alabama; National Park Service; Troy University's Rosa Parks Museum; and Thread My Needle participated with displays and activities.

The day culminated with a panel discussion between River Region artists Michelle Browder and Tiiwon Siaway about the roots and importance of African American art. Kalonji Gilchrest, executive director of 21 Dreams Arts & Culture, and Richard Trammell, ADAH education curator, moderated the discussion.

Navy Week

In April, the ADAH participated in Montgomery's first Navy Week. The celebration emphasized the importance of the U.S. Navy to Montgomery, the state of Alabama, and the nation. The ADAH hosted two Navy Week events. On April 2, the Navy Band Southeast Woodwind Quintet gave a performance and visited with guests at the Archives. On April 4, ADAH visitors had opportunities to see special presentations by the Navy Drill Team and to talk with crew members of the USS *Constitution*, USS *Montgomery* (LCS 8), and USS *Alabama* (SSBN 731).

Montgomery Symphony Orchestra Jubilee Pops Concert

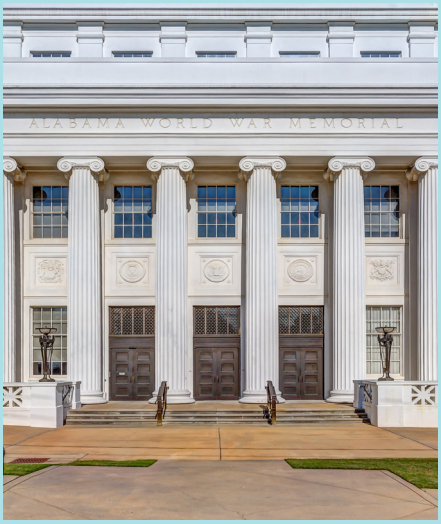
In May, the ADAH hosted the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra for its annual Memorial Day Jubilee Pops concert on the ADAH's terrace. The free concert featured patriotic and pop songs and a salute to Alabama's veterans and service members.

Did you know?

The ADAH building also serves as Alabama's World War Memorial.

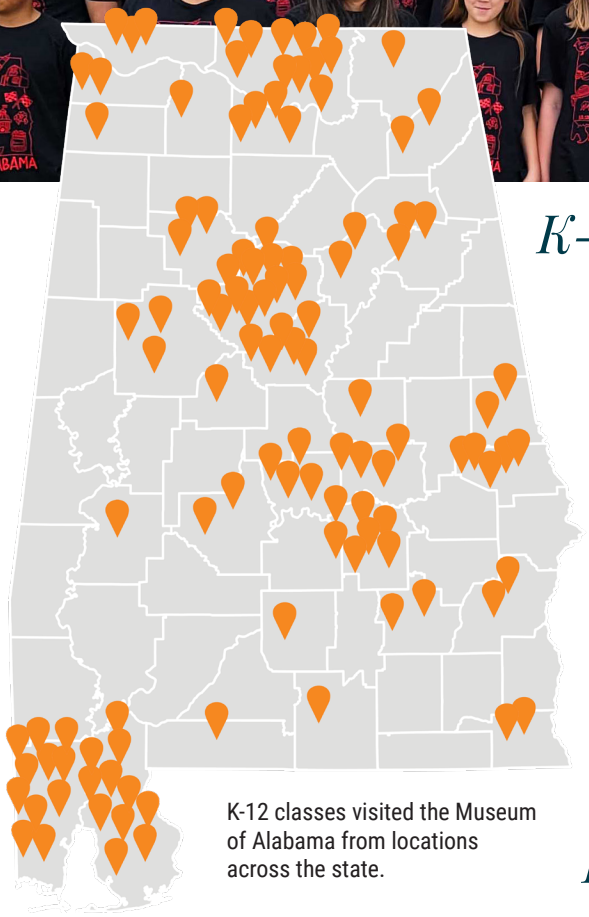
After the ADAH's founding 1901, its first home was in the House and Senate chambers of the State Capitol when they were not in use by the Legislature. At the end of World War I, ADAH Director Thomas McAdory Owen proposed a facility that would serve as both a permanent home for the Archives and a memorial to the Alabamians who died in the war. The state lacked funding for construction, and Owen died in 1920 without seeing his vision realized.

Marie Bankhead Owen, Tom's widow and successor as agency head, secured federal New Deal funds in the 1930s and oversaw construction of the central portion of the existing Archives building. It opened to national acclaim in 1940.



Share

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history by supporting social studies education in K-12 schools.



K-12 classes visited the Museum of Alabama from locations across the state.

K-12 Field Trips in FY24

"The Museum covered everything we studied or plan to study. Great reinforcement for our curriculum!"
— Visiting Teacher

16,334 K-12 Visitors Explored the the Museum of Alabama

98% Of Teachers Surveyed Rated Tour Experience as "Excellent"

1,986 Students Participated in Virtual Field Trips

Resources for Students & Educators

Trekking Through History Traveling Resources

These backpacks and trunks are designed to supplement the classroom learning experience. They correspond with the *Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies* standards, feature a variety of Alabama history topics, and arrive at schools filled with an assortment of learning tools including activity sheets, books, videos, and copies of original primary source materials. Backpacks and trunks are free to use; teachers pay only for shipping.

46 Traveling Resources Loaned in FY24 | 3,321 Students Served

Summer Library Programs

In summer 2024, ADAH Education staff offered free, interactive programs for children ages 4-12 at public libraries in Alabama. This year's theme, *Map Your Adventure,* encouraged students to learn about the geography of Alabama using historic and contemporary maps. Programs included book readings, hands-on activities, and crafts.

18 Programs Held at Alabama Libraries
241 Children Served

The Alabama History Hub

The Alabama History Hub is a one-stop K-12 educator resource offering primary sources, lesson plans, and classroom activities curated by ADAH staff. This custom-designed database on the ADAH's website features a variety of filters that allow visitors to search for resources by time period, grade level, course of study standards, and more.

412 Resources Available
2,727 Page Views | 612 Resources Downloaded

alabamahistoryhub.org

Alabama HISTORY INSTITUTES 2024

8 Locations | **157** K-12 Educators Served | **37** Counties Represented

In June 2024, 157 Alabama K-12 educators representing 37 counties participated in the ADAH's seventh summer of Alabama History Institutes (AHI). Held in eight locations across the state, these three-day professional development workshops equipped public, private, and home school educators with resources and content to strengthen social studies instruction in their classrooms. Participants practiced using and teaching with primary sources, such as historical photographs and archival documents, and experienced first-hand the local history found in all corners of the state.

» ***AHI participants receive professional development credit hours and a stipend.***

» ***Applications for 2025 Institutes are open on the ADAH's website through March 6, 2025.***

"I love connecting teaching to local history. So many of the participants leave the workshops knowing far more about the region and the state than when they started!"
– AHI Participant

AHI Receives National Recognition

In September, the AHI program received a **national Award of Excellence** at the annual conference of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The Award of Excellence is part of the AASLH Leadership in History Awards, the organization's most prestigious national recognition for achievement in public history. The ADAH was the only organization to receive more than one award in 2024 (see page 21).

2024 AHI LOCATIONS

» **ANNISTON:** *Using Primary Sources in the Classroom*
» **DECATUR:** *Alabama Waterways: The DNA of our State*
» **SELMA:** *Pathbreaking Alabama Women*
» **ALABASTER:** *Expanding the Classroom: Student Engagement with Community Resources*
» **FLORENCE:** *World War I through the Local Lens of the Shoals*
» **BIRMINGHAM:** *Hope & Humanity: Alabama's Connections to the Holocaust*
» **MOBILE:** *Exploring Alabama's Communities through Oral Histories*
» **MONTGOMERY:** *Migration Experiences in Alabama History*

Museum Services

The ADAH assists state agencies, local governments, and local history organizations in the proper care of records and artifacts.

The ADAH's Museum Services staff offer free guidance on best practices for collections care and conservation, historical interpretation, and organizational administration for any Alabama history organization.

In FY24:

198
Consultations With Local History Organizations

71
History Organizations Served

34
Counties Represented

Museum Services Staff Provided Consultations to the Following in FY24:

Autauga County
Autauga County Heritage Association
Mt. Sinai Rosenwald School Committee
Baldwin County
Foley Railroad Museum
Holmes Medical Museum
Daphne Black Education Museum
Loxley Museum
Daphne History Museum
Bullock County
Josephine Arts Center
Calhoun County
NPS - Freedom Riders National Monument
Little River Canyon Center
Anniston Museum of Natural History
Chambers County
City of Lafayette
Clarke County
Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum
Coffee County
Elba Historic Preservation Alliance
Dallas County
E. M. Brown Community Center
Elmore County
Eclectic Museum
Elmore County Black History Museum
Elmore County Museum
Friends of the Forts
Escambia County
Atmore Historical Society
Escambia County Historical Society
Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Pride of Atmore
Etowah County
Nichols Library
Hale County
Safe House Black History Museum
Houston County
Wiregrass Archives
Jackson County
Scottsboro Boys Museum
Jefferson County
Arlington Antebellum Home and Gardens
Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham African American Genealogy Group
Alabama Historical Radio Society
St. Paul United Methodist Church
Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark
Temple Beth El
Vulcan Park and Museum
UAB Museum of the Health Sciences
Lauderdale County
Florence Arts and Museums
Lee County
Lee County Historical Society
Lowndes County
Mt. Tabor Elementary School Group
Macon County
The Ridge Macon County Archaeology Project
Madison County
Historic Huntsville Foundation
Oakwood University
Weeden House Museum
State Black Archives, Research Center, and Museum
Marshall County
Albertville Museum
Mobile County
Bishop State Community College
Mobile Medical Museum
MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians
Africatown Direct Descendants of the *Clotilda*
Monroe County
Monroe County Museum
Montgomery County
Heritage Music Foundation
JAG School Museum - Maxwell AFB
Hank Williams Museum
Mt. Zion AME Church
Montgomery County Historical Society
Holt Street Baptist Church Museum
Morgan County
City of Decatur Historic Preservation
Randolph County
Randolph County Historical Society
Russell County
Fort Mitchell
Shelby County
Helena Museum
Wallace Center for Arts and Reconciliation
St. Clair County
Springville Preservation Society
Sumter County
Sumter County Museum Group
Tuscaloosa County
M. W. Warner Transportation Museum
Bryce Hospital Museum
Walker County
Eldridge Museum Group
Washington County
Prestwick Preservation Society
Washington County Museum
St. Stephens Historical Park
Wilcox County
Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center

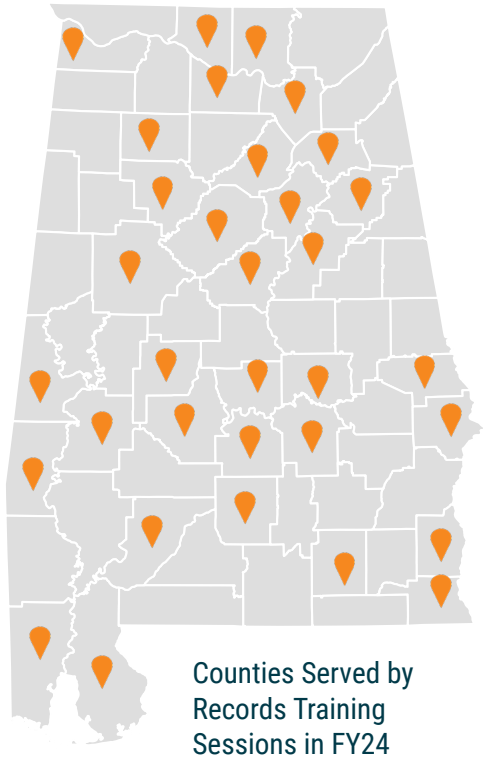
Records Management

The ADAH assists state agencies, local governments, and local history organizations in the proper care of records and artifacts. Learn more at archives.alabama.gov/manage.

The ADAH's Records Management Section offers records training to state and local government and higher education staff. Attendees learn about records law in Alabama and identify best practices for maintaining, storing, and disposing of their records.

In FY24:

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES	SESSIONS	ATTENDEES
State Agencies, District Attorney Offices, and Colleges & Universities	61	636
Local Governments	34	1,520
Nonprofits	3	11



Counties Served by Records Training Sessions in FY24

RDA IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS	
State Agencies	174
District Attorney Offices	41
Colleges & Universities	33

STATE RECORDS CENTER	
Total Records Holdings	43,902 cubic feet
Agencies Using Services	36
Records Requests Fulfilled in FY24	12,779

Terms To Know:

RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY (RDA): This document approved by the State Records and Local Government Records Commissions establishes disposition requirements by designating government records as either temporary records, which may be legally destroyed after a specified period, or permanent records, which must be preserved in perpetuity.

RDA IMPLEMENTATION REPORT: State agencies, district attorneys' offices, and public colleges and universities are required to submit this annual report summarizing records activities from the previous fiscal year, including information about records destroyed.

6
State Agency RDAs Approved:

- Alabama Department of Finance
- Alabama Department of Insurance
- Alabama Ethics Commission
- Alabama Professional Bail Bonding Board
- Alabama Men's Hall of Fame
- Alabama Tax Tribunal

"We appreciate the Archives' professionalism and work with helping us, and other agencies, meet the requirements set out in Alabama's records laws. You and your colleagues are an important component to our success."
— State Agency Division Chief

1,641 State Agency & Local Government Inquiries Resolved

Outreach

The ADAH shares information and resources with state and local government agencies, other historical museums and societies, conference attendees, and school groups across the state.

ADAH staff gave talks on a variety of topics to audiences across the state and beyond. Examples of topics and audiences include:

Alabama Quilts

- Daughters of the American Revolution, Autauga Chapter
- United Daughters of the Confederacy, Dothan Chapter
- Decatur Public Library
- North Shelby Library
- Foley Public Library
- West Alabama Quilters Guild
- Hoover Historical Society

Archives/Museum

- Baker High School
- St. Clair County High School
- Auburn University
- Troy University
- The University of Alabama
- University of South Alabama

Genealogical Research

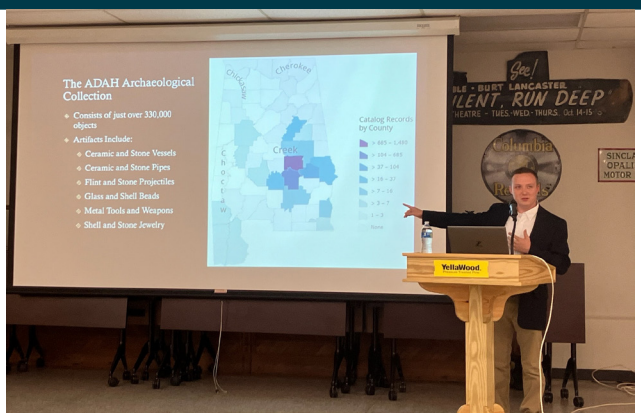
- Genealogical Society of East Alabama
- Opelika Book Festival
- Birmingham Public Library
- Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library, Montgomery
- Daughters of the War of 1812
- Autauga Genealogical Society

Black History

- Delta Sigma Theta, Dothan Alumni Chapter
- Smiths Station Junior High School
- Pike Road Library

Civic History Education & Community

- National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference



ADAH & NAGPRA Compliance

- Henry County Historical Group (above)
- Society for American Archaeology Conference
- NAGPRA Southeastern Community of Practice

Native American History

- Lowndes County Historical Society
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Princess Sehoy Chapter
- Clarke County Historical Society

Confederate Artifacts & Digitization

- Sons of Confederate Veterans, Troy

In April, five ADAH staff members presented research at the **Alabama Historical Association** Annual Meeting in Huntsville.

TOPICS:

- Preserving Alabama's Rosenwald Schools
- Lessons Learned from Mapping Black Towns in Alabama
- Zelda Fitzgerald's Figural Artworks
- Alabama History in the Classroom
- The March Continues: Alabamians and the 1980s Fight to Renew the Voting Rights Act

Women's Suffrage

- Autauga County Historical Society
- Republican Women of Tuscaloosa
- Trailblazers Group, Northport Baptist Church

The Sacred Harp Hymnbook

- Kiwanis Club of Monroeville
- Southern Dames of America, Alabama State Society

French Gratitude Trains

- Pintlala Historical Association

See page 16 for recently digitized Merci Train collections at the ADAH.

Records Law & Records Management Best Practices

- Alabama Municipal Revenue Officers Association
- Government Finance Officers Association of Alabama
- Alabama Fire College
- Association of Alabama Tax Administrators
- Association of County Commissions of Alabama
- County Revenue Officers Association
- Alabama Public Library Service
- Municipal Clerks
- Alabama Probate Judges Association
- Alabama Association of Emergency Managers
- Alabama Association of Assessing Officials
- Department of Public Health
- Alabama Conservation District Employees Association
- Alabama Association of Regulatory Boards

Ft. Toulouse – Ft. Jackson Frontier Days

Rosa Parks Museum Juneteenth Celebration

ADAH Collection on Display at Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum

The ADAH loaned several items from its Alice Johnson Midwife Collection to the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum in New York for display in the exhibit *Making Home: Smithsonian Design Triennial*. Alice Johnson's gown and midwife kit are displayed in the "Birth in Alabama" portion of the Cooper Hewitt Museum's exhibit, which explores the history of laws and professional practice affecting childbirth in the state.

Johnson was born ca. 1897 in Chilton County and worked as a midwife in Chilton and Bibb counties from 1949 to 1957. She married Esley Johnson, with whom she had ten children. According to her family, Esley and Alice were eventually driven from Alabama by the Ku Klux Klan, after which they lived with their daughter Essie Mixon in Delaware. Alice Johnson died in 1974.

The ADAH is grateful to Essie Mixon for donating her mother's items to its permanent collection.

***Making Home* will be on display through August 10, 2025.**

ADAH Collections at Other Institutions

The ADAH often lends materials from its permanent collections to other museums and institutions to help them better tell the stories of Alabamians. Items from our collections were on display or available for use at the following locations in FY24.

- Africatown Heritage House
- Alabama Cattlemen's Association MOOseum
- Alabama Governor's Mansion
- Alabama State Capitol
- Alabama Supreme Court and State Law Library
- *Beauvoir,* Jefferson Davis Home
- Confederate Memorial Park
- Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum
- Elmore Historical Society and Museum
- Fort Morgan
- Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library
- Lawrence County Archives
- Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library
- Madison County Archives
- Montgomery County Archives
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians Museum
- Tannehill State Park/Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama
- Tuscaloosa County Probate Court
- United States District Courthouse, Montgomery
- USS *Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park

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